

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 DPW-01 EUR-10 IO-03 AID-10

RSR-01 /077 W

----- 072021

R 271142Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5241

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13614

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP-27 JULY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP
JULY 27 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0334

1. MR3 G2 REPORTS CONTINUED INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 JULY 27. TWENTY-NINE CLASES WERE REPORTED IN THE FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD AND 36 IN THE SECOND, FOR A TOTAL OF 65. OF THESE 14 WERE GROUND ATTACKS, 37 ATTACKS BY FIRE (SIX OVER 20 ROUNDS, ONE A DAY LONG SHELLING OF 100 ROUNDS AGAINST THE 3RD BN/8TH RGT, 5 KMS NE PHU GIAO), TWO COMBINED MAJOR ATTACKS BY FIRE AND ON THE GROUND, ONE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRING (IN WHICH AN L-19 LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRPLANE RECEIVED FIVE HITS 5 KMS. SW BEN CAT AND LANDED SAFELY AT LAI KHE), ONE SMALL ARMS HARASSMENT, AND TEN MINING/GRENADE DETONATIONS. GVN LOSSES FOR THE PERIOD WERE 33 KILLED, 70 WOUNDED, THREE MIA, NINE M16'S, THREE M79S AND ONE AN/PRC-25. REPORTED VC/NVA LOSSES FOR THE SAME PERIOD WERE 115 KIA, ONE SUSPECT CAPTURED; EQUIPMENT INCLUDED 23 AK47'S, 13 B40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, NINE GRENADES, TWO
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K54 PISTOLS, ONE M79, ONE AK50, TWO M16S AND ONE 197 MM ROCKET

ROUND. ONE 12.8 MM MACHINE GUN AND 18 TUNNELS WERE DESTROYED. TWO COMMUNISTS RALLIED TO THE GVN DURING THE 48 HOURS, ONE EACH IN TAY NINH AND BINH DUONG PROVINCES.

2. THE INTENSITY OF ACTION IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE (27 INCIDENTS), ESPECIALLY SW PHU GIAO AND WEST OF BEN CAT, IS REFLECTED IN LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES; RVNAF REPORTED 14 KILLED, 36 WOUNDED AND THREE MISSING, WHILE VC/NVA KIA NWERE SET AT 89 WITH CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT CAPTURED. MILITARY CLASHES REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN REGION, BROKEN DOWN BY PROVINCE, WERE BINH LONG (8), TAY NINH (7), LONG KHANH (6), PHUOC LONG (5), THREE EACH IN HAU NGHIA AND GIA DINH AND TWO EACH IN PHUOC TUY, BIEN HOA AND LONG AN.

3. MR3 G2 LTC BINH TOLD DAO/RLO MORNING JULY 27 THAT INTER-PROVINCIAL ROUTE 1A WAS INTERDICTED BETWEEN PHU GIAO AND PHU CUONG IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH ARVN CONVOYS ARE STILL TRAVELING TO PHU GIAO. HE CLAIMED THE ROAD TO PHU GIAO WOULD "SHORTLY" BE OPEN AND SECURE. BUT HE ADMITTED IT WAS UNLIKELY ARVN COULD OPEN 1A BETWEEN PHU GIAO AND DONG XOAI IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, AND DAO/RLO GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT RVNAF HAS GIVEN UP ON RESUPPLYING PHUOC LONG VIA 1A AND 14. G2 SAID SOME SUPPLIES ARE GETTING INTO PHUOC BINH BY AIR, AND THAT GVN STILL PLANS TO SEND A CONVOY TO PHUOC BINH-SONG BE THROUGH MR2, "VERY SOON". MR3 CONSIDERES THAT THEY ARE FACING 141ST 165TH AND 209TH REGIMENTS OF THE 7TH NVA DIVISION IN THE PHU GIAO AREA, AND THEY HAVE RECEIVED SOME INDICATIONS THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH NVA DIVISION ARE REINFORCING OR REPLACING THE 7TH. THE 95C NVA REGIMENT IS BELEIVED TO HAVE RELOCATED FROM SOUTHERN BINH LONG TO NORTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE IN NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 AREA ABOVE LAI KHE, AND PERHAPS ALSO TO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT IN PAST FEW DAYS WITH 65TH RANGERS SW OF BEN CAT.

4. LTC BINH ALSO TOLD DAO/RLO THAT HELICOPTERS HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN ABLE TO LAND AT TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP TO ROTATE 92ND RANGERS, BUT ROTATION NOT YET COMPLETED. FLIGHTS ARE SUBJECT TO 12.7MM COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, AND PERHAPS 37MM AS WELL, THOUGH THE TYPE WEAPONS EMPLOYED CANNOT BE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AT THE FLIGHT ALTITUDE USED. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON13614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973077/aaaaaeyk.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR 3 SITREP-27 JULY 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005